

January 16, 1986

TO: File

FROM: Kathryn M. Mutz, Reclamation Biologist *Kmm*

RE: Site Visit, Rio Algom's Lisbon Mine and Humeca Uranium Mill, ACT/037/001, San Juan County, Utah

Members of the "A" Team (John J. Whitehead, Kathryn M. Mutz, James R. Fricke, Richard V. Smith, Thomas Munson, Everett Hooper and Pamela Grubaugh-Littig) met with representatives of the Rio Algom uranium operation (Bill Francom and Merv Lawton, General Manager) on Wednesday, January 10, 1986. The purpose of the site visit was to tour the operation and discuss the Mining and Reclamation Plan (MRP). The mill and mine received permit approval in 1979 and 1980, respectively.

A brief discussion with Mr. Lawton indicated that the operation's principle regulatory concern is with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The mine will be mined-out and ready for reclamation within a few years but they hope to keep the mill open to process ore from other local operations. Currently, they process waste material in addition to their own ore but haven't sold yellow cake for about three years. Mine reclamation would involve shaft closure and may affect the reservoir which stores mine water.

Mr. Francom provided a tour of the mine area and answered questions in the field. Major stops on the tour included the diversion ditch, yellow cake storage area, reservoir, a well site and tailing ponds.

A significant problem and expense of reclamation will be finding enough material to cover the tailing ponds. Several feet of cover may be required by NRC. Potential contamination of ground water is a current concern.

kmm  
cc: A Team  
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